Index

Preface 9

Editor's note 11

1. Introduction 13
Overview 13
Abbreviations 15

2. Corals. Biology and History 17
Introduction 17
2.1. Skeletal mineralisation in corals 18
2.2. Mediterranean red coral 19
2.3. White corals in the Mediterranean Sea 22
2.4. The study of corals: origins and advancements 23
2.4.1. Coral: myth and magic 23
2.4.2. Coral in scientific research: mineral, plant or animal? 25

3. Ornamental Use of Coral from the Neolithic to the 19th century 27
3.1. Neolithic (5th – 4th millennium BCE) 27
3.2. Copper Age - Bronze Age (3rd - 2nd millennium BCE) 29
3.3. Iron Age (9th - 2nd century BCE) 30
3.3.1 Coral for ancient Greeks 30
3.3.2 Coral in Egypt 30
3.3.3 Coral in the Phoenician-Punic domain 31
3.3.4 Coral among the Italic populations 32
3.3.5 Coral in Iron Age Europe 34
3.3.6 Supply areas in pre-Roman times 36
3.4. Roman period 40
3.5. Middle Ages (476-1492) 41
3.6. Modern Age (1492-1789) 42
3.7. Contemporary Age (1789-1904) 43

4. Coral in Northern Italy in the Iron Age 45
Introduction 46
4.1 The archaeological background. Northern Italy in the Iron Age 48
4.1.1 Golasecca 48
4.1.2 Liguria 50
4.1.3. Este and northeastern Italy 52
4.1.4. Etruria Padana 54
4.1.5 The Late Iron Age 56
4.2 The use of coral in the Golasecca culture 57
4.2.1 Longone al Segrino type pendant 58
4.2.2 Coral composite bow fibula 59
4.2.3 Leech fibulae 61

4.2.4 Leech fibulae with circular insets 61
4.2.5 Leech fibulae with linear decoration 72
4.2.6 Cross-panel leech fibulae 73
4.2.7 Leech fibulae with transversal grooves 74
4.2.8 Late Hallstattian fibulae 76
Ornithomorphic fibulae 76
Fußzierfibeln 79
4.2.9 Navicella fibulae 80
4.2.10 Bucket Pendants 81
4.2.11 Grooming tools 85
4.3 The use of coral in Liguria Interna and coastal Liguria 86
4.4 The use of coral in Este culture and north-eastern Italy 87
4.4.1 Beads and pendants 87
4.4.2 Dragon-shaped fibulae with daisies 88
4.5 The use of coral in Etruria Padana 90
4.6 The use of coral in the Late Iron Age 91
4.6.1 Ancient La Tène fibulae, furrowed bow and coral applications 92
4.6.2 Massive bow fibulae with wide central application and disc-shaped appendix 93
4.7 Discussion. Coral in Iron Age northern Italy 96

5. Archaeometry and Corals 99
5.1. The archaeological question 100
5.2. Previous studies 101
5.3. The provenance problem 103
5.3.1. Isotopic analysis 103
5.3.2. Trace elements analysis 104
5.3.3. Others possible approaches 105

6. Materials and Methods 107
6.1. Analytical record 107
6.1.1. Archaeological record 107
6.1.2. Modern samples 113
6.2. Analytical protocol 113
6.2.1. Analytical approaches 113
6.2.2. Involved techniques 114
6.2.2.1. Optical microscopy 114
6.2.2.2. Raman spectroscopy 115
6.2.2.3. Infrared spectroscopy 118
6.2.2.4. Micro-X-Ray diffraction analysis 119
6.2.2.5. Chemical analysis: μ-XRF and SEM-EDS 120
6.2.2.6. Radiographic analyses 122

7. Archaeometric Analyses: Results 123
7.1. Whitish decorative materials 124
7.1.1. Modern samples 124
7.1.1.1. Optical stereomicroscope 124
7.1.1.2. μ-Raman analysis 124

7.1.1.3. FT-IR analysis 128
7.1.1.4. μ-XRD analysis 128
7.1.1.5. SEM-EDS analysis 131
7.1.2. Archaeological finds 135
7.1.2.1. Optical microscopy 135
7.1.2.2. Raman analysis 138
7.1.2.3. FT-IR analysis 146
7.1.2.4. μ-XRD analysis 151
7.1.2.5. SEM-EDS analysis 158
7.1.3 Combustion experiments 164
7.1.3.1. μ-Raman analyses 164
7.1.3.2. FT-IR analyses 166
7.1.3.3. SEM-EDS analyses 166
7.1.4 Considerations 168
7.2 Metal surface 179
7.2.1. Optical microscopy 179
7.2.2. μ-Raman analysis 182
7.2.3. μ-XRD analysis 182
7.2.4. SEM-EDS analysis 188
7.2.5. Considerations 193

8. Experimental archaeology contribution 195
Introduction 195
8.1. Technological study 195
8.2. Radiographic examination 201
8.3. Experimental archaeology tests 203
8.3.1. Placement and bonding of coral insets 203
8.3.2. Bronze casting 206
8.4 Considerations 211

9. Conclusions 219
9.1 Project overview 219
9.2 Archaeotypological study: archaeological trends 220
9.3 Archaeometric analysis: protocol and results 221
9.4 Critical issues: LMC problem 222
9.5 Critical issues: coral provenance 223
9.6 Archaeometallurgical insights 223
9.7 Archaeo-technology 224
9.8 Future perspectives 224
Acknowledgments 226

Topographical index 227

References 233

Appendix 1 – Supplementary Figures 257

Appendix 2 – Tables 275